

Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 September 2005



Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports that mass production of a new vaccine that promises to protect against bird flu is poised to begin, as the U.S. government on Thursday agreed to stockpile \$100 million worth of inoculations. (See item <u>28</u>)
- The New Jersey Star-Ledger reports three plague-infected mice have disappeared from the Public Health Research Institute, a bioterror research facility in Newark, New Jersey. (See item <u>29</u>)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: **Government**; **Emergency Services**

IT and Cyber: Information Technology and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons; General; DHS Daily Report Contact

Information

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: Elevated, <u>Cyber</u>: Elevated Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. September 16, Reuters — Much of Gulf output back by end of October. It may take until the end of October for U.S. oil and natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico to return to near pre—Hurricane Katrina levels, but it will take even longer for that much production to make it to the market, the U.S. government said Friday, September 16. Offshore energy companies will have the ability to produce at about 90 percent of pre—storm oil and gas output in 30 to 40 days, said Johnnie Burton, director of the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service. However, some of it won't be able to make it to wholesale market for as much as three months due to pipeline problems and shutdowns of oil refineries and gas processing plants, said Burton. She said the oil and gas is not "going to go anywhere if the infrastructure that receives it is not

up. There are refineries that are not ready to take the product at the end of the pipe. So it's not just the pipes that's the problem, it's everything at the end of the pipe also," Burton said. Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09 /16/AR2005091601062.html

- 2. September 16, Los Angeles Times Error in paperwork led to massive power outage. An inaccurate work order led a crew to cut the lines that caused the power outage on Monday, September 12, to two million people in Los Angeles, the city's Department of Water and Power (DWP) has determined. "It was a case of miscommunication," said Henry Martinez, an assistant general manager for the DWP. DWP engineers who planned the replacement of a control system at a Toluca Lake receiving station specified that a bundle of three charged lines should be left intact, but work drawings handed to the crew called for the lines to be cut and removed, Martinez said. The wire cutters used by the work crew closed a circuit between two live wires, triggering circuit breakers that shut down the receiving station and began the power outage, he said. The agency is still trying to determine who drafted the work drawings that differed from the engineers' plans. Martinez also confirmed that the power outage had damaged some DWP facilities, even though the shutdown of the system was designed to protect the sites.

 Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-dwp16sep16.0.6575353
 http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-dwp16sep16.0.6575353
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- 3. September 15, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Immigration agents arrest illegal aliens at nuclear plant. In the latest in a series of arrests involving illegal aliens at nuclear facilities, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested three illegal aliens in Blair, NE, on Tuesday, September 13, when they attempted to enter the outer secure area of the Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station to perform contract work at the plant for the first time. The three men, all citizens of Mexico, had been hired by an independent contractor to perform maintenance work at the nuclear facility. As they attempted to enter a secure area of the plant, the men presented identification documents that raised the suspicions of Omaha Public Power District employees. They contacted ICE special agents for assistance, who responded and arrested the men after determining that they were illegally present in the United States. All three men have been placed in immigration removal proceedings. ICE agents are investigating the circumstances under which the private contractor hired the illegal aliens. ICE agents have determined that the illegal aliens were not engaged in any terrorist activity. The enforcement action is the latest in a series of ICE arrests involving illegal aliens performing contract work at nuclear plants and other nuclear-related facilities around the country.

Source: http://www.ice.gov/graphics/news/newsreleases/articles/050915blair 2.htm

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. September 16, Associated Press — Gas line explosion injures four in Montana. Four people were injured and several homes damaged Thursday, September 15, in a fast—moving fire caused by a natural gas line explosion in Livingston, MT. The fire started at about 10:30 a.m. MST following what many neighborhood bystanders described as a boom that rattled their windows. Contractors from Billings, MT, were replacing sewer lines in an alley behind the houses that

morning, Livingston Fire and Rescue Chief Jim Mastin said. "I'm not sure if they damaged the gas line or if there was some other reason the gas line was damaged, but NorthWestern (Energy) was out here to repair the line," he said. "We don't know why it exploded." A triplex residence owned and occupied by former Park County Commissioner Ken Spalding caught fire, as did the home next door and a third building nearby, Mastin said. Several windows were blown out in a freestanding garage and trailer home across the alley behind the triplex, resident Brad Haefs said. Three NorthWestern Energy employees were treated for burns, as was a young man who was sleeping in the triplex home. Mastin said none of their injuries appeared to be life—threatening.

Source: http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/09/16/build/state/40-gas-explosion.inc

5. September 14, Washington Missourian Online (MO) — Major ammonia leak prompts evacuation of nearby residents in Missouri. Emergency crews evacuated between 50 and 100 residents in a two-square-mile area Monday, September 12, following a major anhydrous ammonia leak at the Backes & Toelke Agriculture Products facility on Highway 100, about two miles west of New Haven, MO. No one was seriously injured during the 12-hour emergency operation in which crews from numerous agencies focused their efforts on capping the leaking 10,000-gallon tank and preventing the spread of toxic vapors, Franklin County, MO, Sheriff Gary Toelke said. The operation ended about 1 a.m. CST Tuesday, September 13, when the tank emptied, Toelke said. At that point, pipeline repair workers and emergency personnel trained in handling Hazmat situations were able to approach the tank and determined that a small release valve had popped out of its fitting. The cause of the valve failure is still under investigation, Toelke said. While anhydrous ammonia thefts have been a major problem in the past in Franklin County, there is no evidence at this point that the valve was tampered with, according to Toelke. Anhydrous ammonia is a caustic chemical used as a farm fertilizer. It also is a key ingredient used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15209058&BRD=1409&PAG=461&dept_id=33071&rfi=6

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. September 17, Los Angeles Times — U.S. policy on Medicare cards is a boon for identity thieves. Seeking to cut the risk of identity theft, some states have passed laws forcing private insurers to remove Social Security numbers from healthcare cards. However, these laws don't apply to federal agencies and programs such as Medicare or to other institutions that use Social Security numbers for identification, including many colleges and universities. "We tell people all the time that they shouldn't carry their Social Security number in their wallet," said Susanna Montezemolo, a policy analyst with Consumers Union in Washington. "Their response is,

'Well, it's on my Medicare card.'" With an estimated 42 million Americans under its umbrella, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issues more cards with Social Security numbers than any other agency except for the Social Security Administration itself. Spokesperson Peter Ashkenaz said that Medicare officials were aware of the concerns involving use of the numbers and that alternatives had been discussed. However, he said, there were no plans to issue cards with different numbers, which would probably cost \$100 million and require retooling the agency's computer systems.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-fi-idtheft17sep17,1,3531238,full.story

7. September 16, The Register (UK) — U.S. banks lose billions to phantom scammers.

Reported identity theft losses represent only the tip of an iceburg, dwarfed by fraudulent losses run up by crooks assuming completely fictitious identities, according to IT analyst firm Gartner. It believes identity theft will claim \$10 million U.S. in 2005 resulting in losses of around \$15 billion from 50 million accounts. By comparison, "victimless" fraud — bad debt run up in the name of non-entities — will hit \$50 billion this year. Avivah Litan, research director at Gartner, explained that because U.S. banks are so keen to recruit new customers, they will open up accounts on the basis of identification from only a pay-as-you-go mobile phone bill (a type of account that is even easier to open) without checks on the validity of supplied social security numbers. Once a bank account is open crooks will pay bills regularly, eventually earning enough trust to obtain credit cards with higher and higher limits. After around 18 months scammers will obtain cash advances on these cards and disappear, a process known as busting out. Banks will pursue these funds and call in collection agencies, but in the end the majority will write-off the debt without understanding the root cause of the fraudulent loss. Gartner IT Security Summit: http://www.gartner.com/2 events/conferences/sec6i.jsp

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/09/16/gartner_phantom_frau_d/

8. September 16, Times Colonist (Canada) — Blank identity papers stolen from province.

More than 1,000 blank documents — including birth, marriage and death certificates — were stolen from the Victoria, Canada, vital statistics office by sophisticated criminals specifically looking for the documents commonly used to create new identities. Such documents could be used for anything from creating false accounts to human smuggling to terrorism. Victoria police said, and could have international implications. An undisclosed number of thieves broke into the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency at on Wednesday, September 14. Police found that one cabinet housing the blank documents had been targeted. Police suspect the blank documents were the purpose of the break-in and say there is no evidence of other documents or equipment being stolen. How the thieves knew just what cabinet to hit is also under investigation. "Based on the amount of time it took, they knew exactly what they were doing," said Victoria police acting Inspector Les Sylven. A theft was attempted at a Vancouver vital statistics office the same morning, but was unsuccessful, police said. Birth certificates are so-called "foundation documents" for identity theft and fraud, because they can be used to obtain other forms of identification.

Source: http://www.canada.com/victoria/timescolonist/news/story.html ?id=e3ad7653-e049-4b93-b3b9-c04386c7d047

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

- 9. September 18, Chicago Sun Times (IL) Two killed, 80 injured in Metra derailment. A Metra Rock Island train jumped the tracks on the South Side of Chicago, IL, on Saturday, September 17, killing at least two women. Authorities said the dead were a 22-year-old woman from Bourbonnais who was killed on the train, and a 30-year-old woman who died at the hospital. The train carried 185 passengers. Seventeen people suffered serious injuries, including one woman who had a body part severed when a spinning wheel of the train cut through the train's floor, fire officials said. More than 56 stretchers carried the injured to waiting ambulances, which fanned out to eight area hospitals. Metra officials were unable to determine what caused the accident just east of the Dan Ryan Expressway at 47th Street and Federal the scene of another derailment two years ago. The National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) acting director, Mark Rosenker, said it's unclear how fast the train was going when it crossed over 47th Street. But it appears the train was traveling faster than it should have been, he said. The final NTSB report on the 2003 crash near the same site was expected to be released by Labor Day. Rosenker said the report is nearly finished.

 Source: http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-train18.html
- 10. September 16, Associated Press Bankruptcy will change Delta, Northwest. Their bankruptcy filings behind them, Delta and Northwest began a lengthy and costly road to recovery on Thursday, September 15, that will likely include cutting employee rolls, pensions, and routes. In the end, if they survive, the nation's third and fourth largest airlines will be smaller and may look more like the discount rivals that helped send them into bankruptcy. While bankruptcy gives the airlines more leverage, it doesn't address one of the companies' fundamental problems not enough revenue. The chiefs of both companies said after their filings Wednesday, September 14, that more job cuts are expected. Employee pensions also are in danger. Delta said it does not plan to make the next scheduled contribution to its pension fund. Northwest had a \$65 million pension payment due, but said in a regulatory filing that a claim against its assets for nonpayment could be avoided if it filed for bankruptcy first. Some analysts expect both airlines to terminate their pensions and dump the responsibility on the federal government like United Airlines has done in its bankruptcy case. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. said that Delta's pension is underfunded by \$10.6 billion and Northwest's by \$5.7 billion. Source: http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=1131812
- 11. September 16, Associated Press Los Angeles—bound plane makes emergency landing in Tokyo. Smoke was detected in the cabin of a United Airlines flight from Tokyo, Japan, to Los Angeles, CA, on Friday, September 16, and the plane made an emergency landing in Tokyo, an official said. No injuries were reported. The smoke appeared about an hour after Flight UA890 took off from Narita airport in Tokyo, and the pilot requested an emergency landing, said Atsushi Ohira, a Narita spokesperson.

Source: http://www.macleans.ca/topstories/news/shownews.isp?content= w091627A

12. September 16, Associated Press — US Airways receives approval to emerge from bankruptcy. US Airways received approval Friday, September 16, to emerge from Chapter 11 protection, clearing the way for the nation's seventh—largest airline to merge with America West Holdings Corp. US Airways Group Inc. must wait at least 10 days before formally emerging from bankruptcy. It expects to emerge and formally close on its merger with America West, the nation's eighth largest airline, late this month or in early October. This was US

Airways' second Chapter 11 filing since August 2002. The first filing came after federal regulators rejected a proposed merger with UAL Corp.'s United Airlines, followed by the industrywide collapse caused by the September 11 attacks. US Airways thought it had corrected its problems in the first bankruptcy, but it failed to anticipate rising fuel costs and rapidly increasing competition from low—cost carriers. US Airways is one of four major U.S. carriers in bankruptcy protection, along with United Airlines, Delta, and Northwest. Delta and Northwest filed for Chapter 11 on Wednesday, September 14. United Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection in 2002.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/09/16/ap/business/mainD8 CLENP81.shtml

13. September 16, Associated Press — Student arrested after pilot uniform found. A university student from Egypt was ordered held without bond after prosecutors said they found a pilot's uniform, chart of Memphis, TN, International Airport and a DVD titled "How an Airline Captain Should Look and Act" in his apartment. The FBI is investigating whether Mahmoud Maawad, 29, had any connection to terrorists. He is awaiting trial on charges of wire fraud and fraudulent use of a Social Security number. Maawad, who is in the U.S. illegally, told the judge during a hearing Thursday, September 15, that he is studying science and economics at the University of Memphis. Assistant U.S. Attorney Steve Parker said that the airport—related items were found during a September 9 search. U.S. Magistrate Judge S. Thomas Anderson ruled that Maawad be held without bond. Maawad had ordered \$3,000 in aviation materials, including DVDs titled "Ups and Downs of Takeoffs and Landings," "Airplane Talk," "Mental Math for Pilots" and "Mastering GPS Flying," FBI agent Thad Gulczynski testified. Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09//16/AR2005091601286 pf.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. September 17, U.S. Postal Service — U.S. Postal Service weather related service update.

The U.S. Postal Service released a Hurricane Katrina—related service update Saturday, September 17. Express Mail embargo to ZIP Code 395 has been lifted. The Postal Service is now accepting Express Mail destined for ZIP Codes 369, 393, 394, 395 and 396. However, the suspension of Express Mail to ZIP Codes 700, 701 and 704 remains in effect. The suspension of Standard Mail (Letters and Flats) and Periodicals Mail destined for ZIP Codes 369, 393, 394 and 396 has been lifted, but remains in effect for ZIP Codes 395, 700, 701 and 704. Drop shipment appointments to ZIP Codes 369, 393, 394 and 396 are being accepted —— but appointments are required before any drop shipments can occur.

Listing of Katrina–affected zip codes and status:

http://www.usps.com/communications/news/serviceupdates/09160 5zips.pdf

Map of Katrina-affected post offices:

http://www.usps.com/communications/news/serviceupdates/zipma p.htm Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/news/serviceupdates.htm

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Agriculture Sector

September 9.

15. September 16, Free Lance Star (VA) — Cattle deaths still a mystery in Orange. Orange, Virginia's largest cattle operation lost more than 40 percent of a cow—calf herd the week of September 5, and the cause of the mass casualties is still not completely known. Patti Knight, who with her husband, Michael, owns Knight Cattle Corp., said on Labor Day a neighbor found a dead cow near State Routes 20 and 612 and notified them. The family found 19 dead cows at that time. Before the week was out, a total of 57 mature cows were dead and 20 others had aborted nearly full—term calves. Knight said that the report from a lab in Lynchburg, VA, said the cows died from an acute renal toxin that could be a poisonous plant. While no definite cause of death has been determined, the report said it was unlikely that fertilizer, salt toxicity, or water deprivation was the cause, she said. Two cows and two aborted calves were sent to the lab in Lynchburg. Veterinarians took brain samples from 30 other dead cows and specialists

from Virginia Tech took tissue samples and blood. There have no other losses since Friday,

Source: http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2005/092005/09162005/1302 40

16. September 16, — More citrus greening found in Florida. State and federal inspectors have confirmed 23 new cases of citrus greening disease in southeast Miami-Dade County and found two suspected outbreaks in Coral City and Miramar, about 40 miles away from the initial discoveries of the bacterial disease that is fatal to trees. If confirmed, the Coral City and Miramar outbreaks would heighten citrus industry fears that citrus greening may be spreading across Florida beyond control. Agricultural inspectors discovered three cases of greening between Florida City and Pinecrest in southeast Dade in late August. That initiated a survey of about 150 square miles around those cases. Inspectors found greening on 32 citrus trees on 23 properties during the follow-up survey. One factor that will make greening difficult to control is that the Asian citrus psyllid, a moth found commonly across Florida, carries the bacteria and spreads it efficiently. The psyllid is the primary method for spreading the disease once it gets introduced. Controlling the disease could involve widespread destruction of ornamental plants as well as fruit—bearing citrus trees — oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and limes. The citrus fruits least susceptible to citrus canker — another bacterial disease that has destroyed more than six million trees through a state-federal eradication program — are the most susceptible to greening.

Source: http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050916/NEWS/509160355/1001/BUSINESS

17. September 16, Associated Press — Bison numbers swell, prompt management concerns.

The Yellowstone National Park bison population has reached an estimated 4,900 animals — hundreds more than last winter and the highest level documented, a park spokesperson said Wednesday, September 14. The population growth is renewing concerns about how federal and state officials manage the bison, some of which carry the disease brucellosis. Jake Cummins, executive vice president of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, said the population is three times greater than the park's carrying capacity, and that it poses a serious risk to a livestock industry fearful that wandering bison will transmit brucellosis to cattle in Montana. Some bison in the park have brucellosis, which can cause cows to abort, and other wildlife, including elk in the greater Yellowstone area, have tested positive. During the winter, bison often leave the park in search of forage in Montana. When they do, the bison become subject to hazing or being

captured and tested for brucellosis under the terms of a management plan carried out by federal and state agencies. Bison that test positive get shipped to slaughter. The plan also sets a population "target" of 3,000 animals. If the late—winter/early—spring count tops that, officials can take steps to reduce the size, including sending bison that enter Montana straight to slaughter without testing.

Source: http://www.helenair.com/articles/2005/09/16/montana/a1009160_5_01.txt

18. September 15, Agricultural Research Service — New insight into how burdensome weed climbs surfaces. The way in which a problematic weed overruns and secures itself to crops and man-made structures — and how it clings to the surfaces it climbs — has been revealed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists. Redvine (Brunnichia ovata), a perennial woody vine that regenerates new growth from woody rootstocks and climbs by its tendrils, is a big problem for Mississippi Delta crops. Researchers discovered that epidermal cells along the length of the vine's tendril expand in response to touch by elongating toward a stimulus. Cells enriched with phenols break apart as the tendrils rub against the object. Then the phenols react with an enzyme, polyphenol oxidase (PPO), to produce a sticky, phenolic polymer cement used by the tendrils to stick to the vine's climbing surface. The researchers also discovered that the weed's tendrils produce gelatinous fiber cells, the same structures found in leaning trees trying to right themselves. These fiber cells are also enriched in lignin to radically increase their strength. Then the cells automatically die, which leads to a dry, rigid coil structure securely anchoring the vine to the support. The researchers found a unique cell wall composition with this process and are looking at steps in the metabolic pathways that might be inhibited to control redvine.

Source: http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/050915.htm

19. September 15, U.S. Department of Agriculture — Additional funds to stop the spread of emerald ash borer. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns Thursday, September 15, announced the availability of an additional \$7.8 million in emergency funding for the emerald ash borer (EAB) eradication program. USDA will provide this emergency funding to the states with EAB quarantines and eradication programs. Ohio will receive four million dollars, Indiana \$1.8 million, and Michigan two million dollars, Michigan will also receive an additional \$100,000 from another USDA source. EAB is an invasive species of wood boring beetles, native to China and eastern Asia that targets ash trees in North America. It was first detected in July of 2002 in southeastern Michigan and has since been found in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, and Virginia. More than 14,000 square miles are currently quarantined due to the presence of the beetle. EAB quarantines restrict the movement of all hardwood species of firewood, nursery stock, and green lumber, among other items. EAB larvae feed in the phloem and outer sapwood of ash trees eventually killing the branches and entire trees. Trees can die within two to three years of becoming infested. To date, approximately 610,000 ash trees have been removed to stop the spread of the pest in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

Multi-state emerald ash borer Web site: http://www.emeraldashborer.info/
Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 10B/.cmd/a
d/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/.c/6 2 1UH/.ce/7 2 5JM/.p/5 2 4TQ/.
d/1/ th/J 2 9D/ s.7 0 A/7 0 10B?PC 7 2 5JM contentid=2005/09
/0377.xml&PC 7 2 5JM navtype=RT&PC 7 2 5JM parentnav=LATEST
RELEASES&PC 7 2 5JM navid=NEWS RELEASE#7 2 5JM

Food Sector

20. September 16, The Arizona Republic — Meat business ordered to close. A Tolleson, AZ, slaughtering and meatpacking business has been accused of operating without a license and selling meat that has tested positive for salmonella bacteria. Authorities said Thursday, September 15, that they had obtained a court order forcing the southwest Valley company to close its doors. Conditions are "wholly unsanitary and likely to cause the spread of disease," authorities allege in court documents. However, a state official said she was unaware of any reports of illnesses linked to the company. Animals have been slaughtered in an open outdoor facility at the meat business and the carcasses left to hang for hours in an unrefrigerated environment, exposed to dust and insects, authorities said. Criminal charges have been filed against the operator, Jose Merced Serrato–Maciel. His business, which does not have a formal name, has operated since 2001.

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0916badmeat16.html

food could help processors improve the speed at which they remove potentially harmful products before they leave the plant. A new method for the rapid simultaneous detection of staphylococcal and botulinum toxins in food could help processors improve the speed at which they remove potentially harmful products before they leave the plant. Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) and botulinum toxin A (BotA) are common causes of food poisoning in humans. Consumer concerns about food safety and a number of costly recalls have led to tougher regulatory action and increased survelliance at processing plants. Researchers from the George Mason University say they successfully used the Naval Research Laboratory array

21. September 16, Food Productionality — New method simultaneously detects toxins in food. A new method for the rapid simultaneous detection of staphylococcal and botulinum toxins in

biosensor to detect for the presence of SEB and BotA and found it capable of rapidly and simultaneously identifying both toxins in complex food products. Their findings appear in the September 2005 issue of the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology. The Naval Research Laboratory developed its array biosensor for the rapid simultaneous analysis of multiple analytes in multiple samples. The biosensor's advantage is it can detect proteins, toxins, bacteria and viruses in under 10 minutes.

The abstract for this study is available at:

http://aem.asm.org/cgi/content/abstract/71/9/5590?maxtoshow=

&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=rapid+simultaneous+d

etection+of+staphylococcal+and+botulinum+toxins+&searchid=11

26896324576 4298&stored search=&FIRSTINDEX=0&fdate=9/1/2005&

tdate=9/30/2005&search_url=http%3A%2F%2Fjournals.asm.org%2Fc_gi%2Fsearch

Source: http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/news-ng.asp?n=62577

biosensor-staphylococcal-botulinum

22. September 16, Food Productionality — United Kingdom bovine spongiform encephalopathy rule change opens door to more supplies. The United Kingdom (UK) government's decision to relax its rules on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) will make more beef available to the UK processing market, and potentially the rest of Europe. The government Thursday,

September 15, agreed to allow domestic cattle aged over 30 months to be slaughtered and used for human consumption. The ban was imposed nine years ago after the outbreak of BSE or "mad cow disease". The move comes after the country's food regulator advised government that the country has developed an effective system to test cattle aged over 30 months for BSE before they enter the food chain. Under the government's proposals, older UK cattle born before 1 August 1996 will continue to be excluded from the food chain. The rule change would bring the UK into line with the rest of the EU, where a testing system for cattle over thirty—months—old has been operating since 2001. The changes could eventually lead to the European Commission relaxing restrictions on exports of UK beef to the rest of the bloc's market.

Source: http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/news-ng.asp?n=62564-bse-beef-food-and-drink-federation

23. September 15, Associated Press — Companies to develop drug to kill Escherichia coli. U.S. pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Co. plans to work with an Indian firm to develop a drug that uses benign viruses to kill the deadly Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria in cattle, the Indian company said Thursday, September 15. India's Gangagen Biotechnologies developed the drug and signed an agreement last week with Elanco Animal Health, Eli Lilly's animal feed division, to convert the drug into a cattle feed supplement, Janakiraman Ramachandran, chairman of Gangagen Biotechnologies, told reporters. Developing the drug cost Gangagen \$3 million, and Elanco plans to spend another \$5 million to produce the cattle feed. The drug can help prevent the bacteria from spreading to humans through contaminated beef, which causes 70,000 infections and a few dozen deaths each year in the U.S. alone, Ramachandran said. "A cocktail of such viruses can be a better option than antibiotics, which are increasingly losing their edge," said Ramachandran. Bacteriophages, as the viruses are known, were used to treat injured soldiers during World War I, but their use subsided after the advent of antibiotics. However, improved bacteriophages have regained popularity over the past decade as an alternative to antibiotics, against which several bacteria have developed resistance. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050915/ap on bi ge/india us e c

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050915/ap on bi ge/india us e c oli drug; ylt=Apqu1 CY80zS3Kn6wWU.5YhZ24cA; ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNlYwMlJVRPUCUl

24. September 15, Associated Press — High mercury levels found in store fish. Store—bought swordfish contained mercury levels above the legal limit in a study released Thursday, September 15, by environmental groups. A University of North Carolina Lab found elevated mercury concentrations in 24 swordfish samples from supermarket chains including Safeway, Shaws, Albertsons, Whole Foods and, in Chicago, Dominick's. A supermarket industry group said it was not surprised by the survey because swordfish and tuna are known to have higher levels of mercury. Average levels were 1.1 parts per million (ppm), just over the government's limit of 1.0 ppm. The Food and Drug Administration can take legal action to remove a product from the market if mercury levels exceed that limit. Two samples, from Maine and Rhode Island, contained double the federal limit for mercury. Swordfish sampled at Dominick's Finer Foods in Chicago contained a mercury concentration of 0.887 ppm, according to the report. Traces of mercury are found in nearly all fish and shellfish. Released through industrial pollution, mercury falls and accumulates in streams and oceans as methylmercury. Methylmercury builds up in fish and shellfish as they feed, in some types more than others. Source: http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/fish15.html

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25. September 15, Food Safety and Inspection Service — Food Safety and Inspection Service releases Recall Notification Report 038–2005. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) released Recall Notification Report 038–2005 Thursday, September 16. Produced September 7, the following products have been recalled: a) One– and 10–pound packages of "Somos Hispanos, Chorizo Jalapeno Brand, El Casero." Each package bears the sell by date "111505;" b) Ten pound packages of "San Carlos Authentic Morcilla, Argentine Brand Blood Sausage;" c) Ten pound packages of "Morcilla 'Cooked Blood Pudding." All products bear the establishment number "EST. 7847" inside the U.S. Department of Agriculture seal of inspection. All shipping containers bear the packaging date "SEP 08 2005." An FSIS monitoring sample returned a positive result for Listeria monocytogenes on September 15, 2005.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS Recalls/RNR 038 2005/index.asp

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Water Sector

26. September 15, WLOX (MS) — High-tech system pumps clean water to medical center. Since Hurricane Katrina hit more than two weeks ago, Mississippi's Biloxi Regional Medical Center has been without clean, safe drinking water. Across Highway 90, the Mississippi Sound has plenty of water, but it's filled with debris, salt, and contaminants. To clean-up the filthy water, FEMA up the Army's Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center, also known as TARDEC. The group set up a state-of-the-art water purification system on the Beach in Biloxi to pump the dirty water out of the Sound and distribute it to the hospital. Special filters remove dirt and salt. The chlorinated water is then stored in what's called a bladder, until it's needed by the hospital. Engineers say the system comes in handy during humanitarian missions and other disasters. Downing said "The whole system is self-contained. All we need is diesel fuel to operate. So we can respond in a matter of days. It takes us a couple of hours to set up and generate water". Crews are in the process of setting up two smaller water treatment systems in the city of Waveland, MS.

Source: http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=3856885

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Public Health Sector

27. September 16, Reuters — Businesses prepare for bird flu disruptions. Global corporations are crafting emergency plans for remote work sites and stockpiles of masks and antiviral medicines in case dire predictions of a worldwide bird flu pandemic come true. Businesses could face travel restrictions, a sharply reduced workforce and disruptions in supply chains if an especially deadly influenza circles the globe and wreaks havoc for months. A flu pandemic "is a very different set of circumstances than a typical crisis like a bomb or even a hurricane. It plays out over a much longer period of time," said Tim Daniel, chief operating officer of International SOS, a firm that helps businesses manage health and safety risks for workers. The H5N1 avian flu virus has killed more than 60 people in Asia. If the virus becomes easy to pass from person to person, some experts predict up to 50 percent of people where the virus is circulating could

become ill. Sick workers would be quarantined, and others would have to stay home to care for ill relatives, or children if schools are closed as a protective measure. International SOS, which advises big corporations, is providing guidance to firms on everything from proper hygiene to keep a virus from spreading to procedures for repatriating corpses of workers who die overseas. Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=health
News&storyID=2005-09-16T120559Z 01 EIC643497 RTRIDST 0 HEALT
<a href="https://example.com/health/heal

28. September 16, Associated Press — U.S. buys \$100 million of bird flu vaccine. Mass production of a new vaccine that promises to protect against bird flu is poised to begin, as the U.S. government on Thursday, September 15, agreed to stockpile \$100 million worth of inoculations. The new contract with French vaccine maker Sanofi—Pasteur marks a major scale—up in U.S. preparation for the possibility that the H5N1 virus could spark an influenza pandemic. While the vaccine is still experimental, preliminary results from the National Institutes of Health's first testing in people suggest the inoculations spur an immune response that would be strong enough to protect against known strains of the avian influenza, sparking the new investment. Just how many doses the \$100 million will buy isn't yet clear. That's because there is contrasting research on just how much antigen much be in each dose to provide protection, explained Sanofi spokesperson Len Lavenda. The range is huge — from 15 micrograms of antigen per dose to 90 — and the protective amount likely will wind up somewhere in between, he said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050916/ap on he me/bird flu; yl t=Ag1JdLEoavdB898EOJI 7 9Z24cA; ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNlYwMlJVRPUCUl

29. September 16, Star-Ledger (NJ) — Plague researchers told to boost security. The FBI has ordered the Public Health Research Institute (PHRI) in Newark, NJ, to improve its security systems following the disappearance of three plague—infected mice at the bioterror research facility. The federal agency, called in by the institute's director after lab workers realized the animals were missing, told the institute to upgrade video cameras and take other measures to secure the facility. Researchers realized on August 29 that they had lost track of three laboratory mice infected with bubonic plague. The mice remain unaccounted for, though infectious—disease experts agree that if they did escape from the lab, public health risk is likely minimal. PHRI isn't the first biosafety facility where mistakes were made with pathogens. In April, lab workers in California were exposed to anthrax germs due to a possible flaw in lab processing procedures by the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, AL. The germs were alive, though they were supposed to have been deactivated. Late last year, three laboratory workers at Boston University's School of Public Health contracted tularemia, an infectious disease considered a potential biowarfare agent, while working on a vaccine against it. The strain they had been using was supposed to have been harmless.

Source: http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1126851 25394450.xml&coll=1

30. September 16, Agence France Presse — Japanese encephalitis exposes dire public health system in India. A major outbreak of Japanese encephalitis that has killed hundreds of children in overcrowded northern India has laid bare the inadequacy of the country's public health programs, experts say. In Uttar Pradesh state, encephalitis claims lives almost every year, but

2005 has left a terrible toll with nearly 700 people, almost all children, already dead. Another 3,200 people are fighting for their lives as an overloaded medical system struggles to cope. A quarter of encephalitis survivors in India are disabled for life. The disease, which first erupted in the state of 180 million people in 1987, struck this year at the end of July as monsoon rains spread. Experts believe India faces entrenched problems with immunization drives in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar. "There's a complete breakdown of the public health infrastructure coupled with grim social neglect in these states," said Alok Mukhapadhaya, chief executive of the Voluntary Health Association, India's largest NGO. Health experts are calling for India to correct the imbalance in its medical infrastructure. Some 75 percent of India's health infrastructure is in urban areas where only 27 percent of the population live. In the countryside, one physician may often have to care for populations exceeding 200,000.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050916/wl asia afp/indiahealth 050916063314

- 31. September 15, Reuters U.S. funds Vietnam bird flu surveillance network. The U.S. has promised to provide \$2.5 million to help Vietnam enhance its bird flu surveillance network over the next five years, officials said on Thursday, September 15. "Improving the influenza surveillance system will improve the rapid detection of changes to influenza viruses," U.S. Ambassador Michael Marine told reporters as the H5N1 virus, which has killed 63 people in Asia, appeared to be heading for Europe. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services would provide around \$500,000 a year between 2005 and 2010 to help Vietnam gather information on the virus systematically, he said. The virus, which has killed 44 Vietnamese, cannot pass easily from human to human, but the World Health Organization has been saying loudly for more than a year that it could mutate into a form which could do so. If that happened, millions of people without immunity could die in a pandemic, it says.

 Source: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN278208.htm
- 32. September 15, Newsday (NY) Disaster plan sustains hospital. A deepwater well that taps into an underground aquifer proved a clever source for a New Orleans hospital, allowing showers, toilet—flushing and housekeeping needs during the height of the hurricane and its disastrous aftermath. Ochsner Clinic Foundation, which runs a private, nonprofit 478—bed hospital, put a detailed disaster plan into effect several years ago that helped doctors and nurses weather the storm. "We got into trouble about 10 years ago in this same situation," said Joseph Guarisco, Ochsner's chairman of emergency medicine. "There was a hurricane, and we were without power and backup generators. We also found we needed water." A well was dug on the premises, Guarisco said, to provide the staff with an emergency water supply. Guarisco added that the disaster plan also called for a seemingly endless supply of bottled drinking water, ready—to—eat meals, four backup generators and reinforced windows. Developed by committee, the plan allowed the facility to keep its doors open when other hospitals were evacuating patients and staff. Only in recent days have neighboring hospitals begun to reopen. In addition to its well and other supplies, Guarisco said the hospital also has an attached hotel that allowed doctors, nurses and support staff to work in shifts.

Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-hshosp144427045sep15,0 396601.story?coll=ny-health-headlines

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

33. September 19, WZZM13 News (MI) — Terrorist disaster drill held in Michigan. A terrorist disaster drill was held Friday, September 16, at Comstock Park in Michigan. It's part of the Kent County, MI, Emergency Management full scale disaster exercise, preparing West Michigan for any type of potential disaster. Nearly 300 first responders and 900 volunteer victims participated in the drill. It's one of many disaster exercises that Kent county emergency management performs each year, but this time, they were testing some brand new equipment. Sue Barthels of the Kent County Emergency Management said, "Through the federal grant monies that we've received, we've been able to put up new antennae's in a new frequency where all those [first response] agencies now can talk together on one channel." In addition, about 100,000 homeland security dollars were used to implement new computer software for instant messaging. This new technology was also put to the test during Friday's drill. The results of the drill are currently being analyzed.

Source: http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_article.aspx?storvid=44288

34. September 16, Department of Homeland Security — U.S. Government response and recovery to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Federal support to state and local officials, volunteer organizations and families who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina continues around the clock in an effort to provide recovery support to those affected by this unprecedented natural disaster. Federal assistance to households will help them get on the road to recovery. The following facts provide an update to some of the important activities and approximate numbers as of 3 p.m. EDT Friday, September 16: a) Household Assistance Funds: \$1.3 billion; b) The Army Corps of Engineers awarded four fixed-priced contracts Thursday, September 15, for debris removal in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina; c) The Environmental Protection Agency continues assessment of damage to local drinking water systems and to provide technical assistance to help restore service in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana; d) The Department of Housing and Urban Development continues to identify thousands of single, and multi-family, properties that can be referred to families uprooted from their homes; e) U.S. Department of Agriculture's veterinarians and veterinary technicians are working closely with state and local officials and private groups to help rescue pets and displaced animals from storm–ravaged areas of southern Louisiana and Mississippi.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content} = 4824$

35. September 16, Hartford Courant (CT) — Disaster drill in Connecticut reveals trouble. Of all the things to fail during a statewide hurricane—preparedness drill in Connecticut Thursday, September 15, nobody expected it to be the fax machines. But too many faxes being received and sent clogged the machines in many local emergency operations centers, in some cases, preventing important information from being immediately transmitted, including the track and intensity of the fictitious storm before it reached land. It was the second drill in as many weeks by state emergency management officials following the devastation in New Orleans by

Hurricane Katrina. Thursday's drill tested towns' ability to communicate with the state, as a Category 4 hurricane bore down on the Connecticut coastline. The three–hour drill was coordinated from the state's emergency management center in the armory in Hartford, CT. It was not mandatory, but more than 100 municipalities participated, officials said. Town and state officials said the drill was a valuable lesson, which clearly showed the necessity of having redundancy in communication. Another problem highlighted by the drill was town leaders who were unsure of their authority to call a state of emergency or evacuate large areas of their towns, said Wayne Sandford, of the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Source: http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-stormdrill0916.artsep16 _0.5821448.story?coll=hc-headlines-local

36. September 16, Argus Leader (SD) — South Dakota strives to improve disaster plans. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, local, state and federal officials in South Dakota are taking a second look at plans for disaster response and their reliance on the planning process itself. Key issues marked for improvement in South Dakota include working out a plan to evacuate an entire city and improving the new state radio system. Emergency officials say the recent disaster in New Orleans also points up the need for flexible emergency managers who can step in for others, and the importance of keeping county—level officials abreast of plans. Although Minnehaha County emergency officials have constructed scenarios involving evacuations in the Sioux Falls, SD, area, "We haven't really worked with the full evacuation of the city," Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead said. South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds highlighted the need for emergency managers at all levels to be cross—trained to do more than one job and for redundant communication, transportation and portable power—generating systems. In addition, South Dakota is working to improve a new radio system that works 90 percent of the time for 90 percent of the state. "We want it to work 99 percent of the time over 95 percent of the state," Rounds says.

Source: http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/200509 16/NEWS/509160310/1001/NEWS

- 37. September 15, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (SD) South Dakota fire department adds new rescue truck to fleet. Yankton, SD's, Fire Department will be more efficient thanks to the addition of a new county special response vehicle, according to local officials. The new, larger vehicle replaces one that had long ago outlived its usefulness, said Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickels. The \$159,000 purchase was made possible by Homeland Security funds available to the county last year. The specifications of the vehicle meet a number of Chemical, Biological, Explosive, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBERN) criteria, which include it being a primary mover of equipment and personnel, and a primary hazardous waste response vehicle. The new vehicle will allow the department to transport all of its necessary equipment, personnel and a command/Hazmat trailer more than 34,000 pounds and still have additional capacity. Source: http://www.yankton.net/stories/091505/community_20050915019.shtml
- **38.** September 15, KATU News (OR) Tsunami drill shows improvements, problems. Emergency planning officials say a tsunami drill Wednesday, September 14, along the western coastline of the U.S. was a big success. The exercise was part of a federal effort to improve reaction times and coordination among police and civil safety agencies in the event a tsunami was headed for the West Coast. However, many local Lincoln City, OR, residents say that

while improvements were made, there was still a long way to go before they would feel any real confidence in the warning system. In several cities and towns along the coast in June, no warning sirens were heard during a real tsunami warning due to malfunctioning equipment or a lack of communication from authorities. While sirens sounded as planned and pagers buzzed on police belts during Wednesday's drill, some local businesses located right near the beach still did not get a planned phone call warning. People walking along the beach turned to look as sirens howled, but few people ran to get to higher ground. Most were curious what the fuss was all about, but had no idea where to go or what to do in the event of a real emergency. Escape route maps have been distributed throughout Lincoln City and signs have been updated and added around the town. More tsunami drills are planned for the future to further improve the emergency systems.

Lincoln City Tsunami Evacuation Information:

http://www.oregongeology.com/earthquakes/Coastal/tsubrochure s/LincolnCityEvac.pdf
Tsunami hazard resources from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries:
http://www.oregongeology.com/links/linkstsunami.htm

Source: http://www.katu.com/news/story.asp?ID=79671

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

39. September 14, Security Focus — MIVA Merchant 5 Merchant.MVC cross—site scripting vulnerability. MIVA Merchant 5 is prone to a cross—site scripting vulnerability. This issue is due to a failure in the application to properly sanitized user—supplied input. This issue may be leveraged by having arbitrary script code executed in the browser of an unsuspecting user in the context of the affected site. This vulnerability may facilitate the theft of cookie—based authentication credentials as well as other attacks.

Source: http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14828/references

40. September 13, Security News Portal.com — Hackers work to exploit latest Firefox flaw.

There has been a exploit found working on a Firefox flaw and the latest Netscape Web browser. According to the article, at least two security researchers have posted messages to popular security mailing lists claiming they have found ways attackers could take advantage of the vulnerability. The security vulnerability in question is a buffer overflow flaw. An attacker could host a Web site containing malicious code to exploit the vulnerability.

Source: http://www.snpx.com/cgi-bin/news55.cgi?target=109361173?-262 2

41. September 09, Government Technology — New York City has an E911 solution for nomadic VoIP telephone subscribers. New York City is now offering an E911 solution for Voice over IP (VoIP) telephone subscribers. This solution addresses a major emergency dialing problem associated with "nomadic" VoIP services. Nomadic services allow subscribers to move their VoIP phones from one location to another with access to a high–speed Internet connection. DoITT Commissioner Gino Menchini stated "The VoIP/911 solution exemplifies what can be accomplished when government and industry work collaboratively." He went on to say that "The VoIP/911 solution exemplifies what can be accomplished when government and industry work collaboratively," said DoITT Commissioner Gino Menchini. "The City of New York recognizes that VoIP offers great potential for new competitive communications services and

we encourage its continued growth. At the same time, however, 911 is at the very heart of government's public safety responsibility. I believe this implementation both strengthens the VoIP industry and upholds government's responsibility to protect human life and property." Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/96576

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US–CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US–CERT has received reports of multiple phishing sites that attempt to trick users into donating funds to fraudulent foundations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. US–CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events in the Gulf Coast Region.

Phishing emails may appear as requests from a charitable organization asking the users to click on a link that will then take them to a fraudulent site that appears to be a legitimate charity. The users are then asked to provide personal information that can further expose them to future compromises.

Users are encouraged to take the following measures to protect themselves from this type of phishing attack:

- 1. Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages
- 2. Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account/and or financial information has been compromised

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice: http://www.fema.gov/

Current Port Attacks

Top 10	6881 (bittorrent), 1026 (), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6346 (gnutella-svc),
Target	40000 (), 2234 (directplay), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap), 32002 (),
Ports	53 (domain)
	Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

General Sector

42. September 18, Associated Press — Tourists evacuated from Florida Keys. Thousands of tourists jammed the highways on Sunday, September 18, after they were told to evacuate the lower Florida Keys because Tropical Storm Rita had developed over the Bahamas and was moving toward the vulnerable, low-lying island chain. A hurricane warning was posted for the Keys, which meant winds of at least 74 miles an hour were likely by late Monday. A hurricane watch was also in effect for other areas in southern Florida. Gov. Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency, giving Florida officials the authority to oversee evacuations and activate the National Guard. Long-term forecasts show the system heading west in the Gulf of Mexico toward Texas or Mexico later in the week, but such forecasts are generally subject to large errors. Farther out in the Atlantic, Tropical Storm Philippe formed late Saturday well east of the Lesser Antilles. It became a hurricane on Sunday, with winds near 75 m.p.h.

National Hurricane Center Public Advisory:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT3+shtml/181440. shtml

Storm map: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/storm_graphics/AT18/refresh/AL1805W5

+gif/025617W sm.gif

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/19/national/19tropical.html

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at <u>nice@dhs.gov</u> or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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